

NEWS NOTES



FUTURE MUSICIANS, INC.

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STATE BAND EDITION



Presenting....THE 1991 NJFMI ALL-STATE BAND!!



It's Here! It's Now! It's the long-awaited all-new outrageously large 1991 New Jersey Future Musicians All-State Band!! 110 players strong, this is our biggest and best. Why do we say all new? Because from auditions to rehearsal schedule to guest conductor to concert order, this is a truly new FMI All-State Band. Entry was by audition only, not by faculty selection. Rehearsals were held in two geographic sections and one intensive weekend together. Our guest conductor, Robin DeSantis, comes to us from New York state with a most impressive string of accomplishments to her credit. (Interesting that, while our teachers traditionally have numbered more women than men, Robin is our first female guest conductor!) Our concert runs progressively from youngest newest players to most accomplished musicians, including the All-State Jazz Band and Faculty Band.

As always, the All-State Band will perform in New York City on the steps of Lincoln Center. This year's date is May 29th---Pray for sun!!

We are so proud of this band, and so happy to present them to you today. If you are reading this "after the fact," by now you probably regret not being here. Call our office and ask to borrow the video tape. You won't be sorry!

In past editions, we have presented quotes from principals about the FMI program and what it contributes to their schools. Recently our editorial staff asked parents at a State Band rehearsal what comments they have about the FMI band experience and what it has done for their children or their family. Here are some of their written comments:

"FMI has been a major factor in both my children becoming involved in music. The teachers of FMI have the unique quality of being able to make learning, a difficult task, not only less difficult, but fun. The students are well-motivated by the enthusiasm and encouragement of their teachers. My children have developed a love for music which may have never happened without the FMI organization."

"Being a student of FMI has certainly had its benefits and advantages. It has built a great confidence and self-esteem and has given the utmost pleasure in being able to perform with such a talented group of individuals. The staff at FMI has done a wonderful job with these students and should be commended for all the great things they have done with the children."

"The kids sound great. They pay attention. The kids played real well at the Meadowlands. It's good for the state to show how good these kids are."

"FMI is a vehicle through which Kevin is able to understand the success he is capable of achieving. His individual practicing and dedication as well as the experience of working in harmony with others in the State Band, has resulted in a concert performance that made us proud of him--and also gave him cause to be proud of himself."

(continued)

Watch the mail for Re-Enrollment Forms

Sign up early...Get a discount!



"FMI has provided Beth Anne with a creative outlet which has allowed her to show her musical talent. By participating in Honors and State Bands, she has met other fine students who share her interest in music. Her musical accomplishments have helped to boost her self-confidence and it comes through in other things she tries."

"Being in a school band teaches the students to work together. It also teaches responsibility and pride in their ability to play music."

"As the parent of two FMI students, I can certainly attest to the benefits of the program both for the students and for the rest of the family. Learning to play an instrument and playing in the school band instills a sense of pride and accomplishment in the student. Regular practice time, although it sometimes seems a chore, is great discipline. And on the rare occasions when Dad or another sibling joins in on keyboard or guitar---this is fun!! (And always good for a few laughs.) I cannot forget to mention that amazing (and much-appreciated) creature, the FMI teacher who has more patience than one can imagine and somehow brings our children to that Spring concert which we can sit back and enjoy (with just the hint of a tear in our eye)."

MAY CROWNING, MASSES, MIDDLE STATES

Many of our FMI schools are involved in Middle States evaluations. These require years of preparation, much cooperation, and involve a hard look at philosophies, techniques and goals. Most start the actual evaluation week with a formal presentation for the visiting evaluation team and assorted other dignitaries, and the school band and chorus is a nice addition to this event. Mrs. Rita Berz's band at St. Augustine, Kendall Park, played for their presentation on Feb. 24. The Aquinas Academy Band, Livingston, will play April 28, under Miss Martha Boughner's direction.

May Crownings and masses are other times to use the band. "Immaculate Mary" is in every band's repertoire book, and it is especially helpful if the ceremony is outside. Mrs. Deb Kubeck's bands have been playing for many masses, and the St. Thomas, Bloomfield, band will play for the annual Grandparents' Mass June 7.

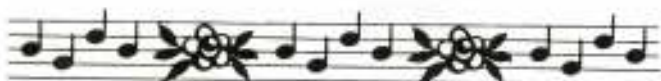


The young bands that perform as part of the All-State concert are an exciting segment of the FMI program. Festival Band is open to any beginner or second-year player in the schools, and for many of these youngsters, it is their first experience in a full-size band, with a complete instrumentation. Also, it may be their first time playing music in harmony with several different parts at the same time.

The first seats in the Honor Guard Band are filled by students from the Honors Bands who did not qualify for the All-State Band. Joining them are 5th to 8th graders who were not eligible in the Fall for Honors Bands, but whose playing has improved over the year to the point where they can now handle more difficult music. Again, if these players did not participate in Festival Band last year, this is often their first experience in a large complete band. It is an exciting feeling to play with 100 students, when your school "band" may be as small as 4! The Honor Guard provides the procession/recession music for the State Band, and these two bands always perform the national anthem together. This year both bands are also combined for the new FMI theme song, and also for the final patriotic presentation.

Perhaps the most important aspects of these two bands are that it enables a large number of students to hear the All-State Band, and perhaps to think, "I want to be up there some day!" Those FMI students who have never participated in any of the extra-curricular groups have very little concept of what "Honors Band" or "State Band" means; they don't know why it's any different from their school band. Where the school bands may be small or not very advanced, these bands offer the opportunity to play more challenging music and are often the reason why the junior-high students remain in the program.

Finally, in addition to these benefits for the students, the Festival and Honor Guard Bands offer the parents the opportunity to see how far their Future Musician can go. And to top it all off, an SRO (Standing Room Only) audience is created for these fine young performers!



Probably the most recent regular addition to our All-State concert has been the All-State Jazz Band. The term "Jazz" is used broadly to include both rock and pop, but the instrumentation is legitimate: brass, saxophones, and rhythm including keyboard, bass, guitar and drums. Music selection is based on degree of difficulty considering the limited rehearsal time, variety of styles, and audience appeal. Jazz band provides an opportunity for drummers to play drum set, and for some other students to perform on a different instrument than what they play in band. This year our keyboard player is a flutist, our guitar a trumpet player, and our bass doubles on tuba.

Students who play the accepted instruments sign up on an interest list at State Band auditions. Those who qualify for All-State are then invited to join Jazz Band. There is one all-morning rehearsal on a Saturday, and several run-throughs after State rehearsals. This year's Jazz Band is performing on the strength of one Saturday morning, one fragmented run-through in north/south sections, and one run-through after a 5 hour band rehearsal!

The Jazz Band members are dedicated; they give up time, practice additional music, and some lug two or three instruments and equipment around. But the results are worth it!

SUMMER MUSIC



What will keep a child playing their instrument over the summer? The best way to encourage them is to have them take lessons or enroll in a summer music program. Most public schools sponsor a summer program for four or five weeks and our FMI students are usually welcome in the town in which they reside. More advanced students might find a community band a challenge and a fun activity.

If the family travels to visit relatives, encourage your musician to take the instrument along and "Show Aunt Rose and Uncle Henry how well you play!" Get your child a book or two of pop tunes, commercial jingles and movie themes. These are available for most instruments.

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Summer Music (continued)

Many of the FMI faculty will be teaching this summer. Gary Mallinson will be on the staff of the Mt. Tabor Band School again this year. Anne Demson and Rita Berz will both be offering private lessons to students within their geographic areas. Barbara (Moore) Anthony will be teaching an 8-week series of lessons at her schools. Martha Boughner is offering two three-week daily programs in two of her areas. Ask your teacher if you are interested in summer lessons and if he/she is not planning to teach, they will be glad to refer you to one of the staff who is. Or call the FMI office.

Playing through the summer will help your child to be ready for Fall. For brass players, it is an absolute "must"; they will be set back several months and must rebuild their lip muscles (or "chops") in the Fall. Woodwind players are similarly affected to a lesser degree, and everyone forgets fingerings and technique! Even a month of lessons will help keep these problems at bay.



1991 FMI HONOR GUARD BAND



NOTES FROM ALL OVER

All the schools have Spring concerts approaching and, in addition....

St. Mary of the Assumption/Hackettstown played for a ceremony honoring Colonel Peter O'Connell's return from the Gulf War (a St. Mary's alumnus)....Our Lady of the Magnificat/Kinnelon's May concert will be a gala send-off with an Irish touch for Monsignor Ryan...St. Rose/Freehold will play a medical center concert on May 14....Rev. Brown School/Sparta will travel to Andover Nursing Home on May 23 for an outdoor concert with teacher Kim Johnson....who will also lead the St. Christopher/Parsippany band at the Troy Hills Nursing Home and at Our Lady of Mercy School in Whippany....A number of combined Spring concerts will afford larger bands and audiences for Our Lady of the Lake/Verona and Holy Angels/Little Falls...Corpus Christi/Hasbrouck Heights and St. Mary's/Rutherford and St. Joseph/East Rutherford...St. Patrick/Chatham and St. Vincent, Martyr/Madison...Sacred Heart/Dover and St. Cecilia/Rockaway....St. Benedict/Holmdel band will perform with the choir in their Spring concert....St. Catharine Interparochial School/Glen Rock has its own Jazz Band which will debut May 17....OL Mt. Virgin/Middlesex had a recital in March presenting solos and duets; half of those advanced band students are in State Band....St. Virgil/Morris Plains and St. Cassian/Upper Montclair will play for their respective May Crownings....St. Catherine/Cedar Grove will play for the town's celebration to welcome home the troops....Mrs. Anita Blake reports that 30% of her students are involved in All-State, Honor Guard, or Festival Band....St. Augustine/Kendall Park will play for the annual 4th of July parade (riding on a truck!)....St. Matthew/Belmont will see the debut on May 15 of its first recorder class of 16 students....St. Augustine will also play for the end-of-year Kindergarten celebration....Aquinas Academy/Livingston will play for the eighth grade graduation....OL Sorrows/South Orange will play for the Spring home-school (Caritas) meeting on May 16....Deb Ruback is pleased that her son Douglas plays trombone in the Honor Guard and daughter Mary plays baritone horn in the All-State Band, and Debbie herself has been coaching softball..... Congratulations on the wedding of FMI teacher Barbara Moore to Clarence Anthony!!.....

We're Busy!!

